

Claims

1.

1 A system for making plastic containers, which includes:
2 a source for providing a continuous stream of molten plastic,
3 a cutter coupled to said source for severing a continuing series of individual mold
4 charges from said continuous stream,
5 a compression molder including a plurality of compression molds arranged in a
6 continuous series for receiving said mold charges in sequence and compression molding said mold
7 charges into a continuing series of individual plastic container preforms,
8 a blow molder including a plurality of blow molds arranged in a continuing series
9 for receiving said individual plastic container preforms in sequence and blow molding said
10 preforms into a continuing series of plastic containers, and
11 a common drive for coordinating continuous and synchronous operation of said
12 source, said cutter, said compression molder and said blow molder.

2.

1 The system set forth in claim 1 further including a preform conditioner coupled to
2 said common drive and connected between said compression molder and said blow molder for
3 conditioning preforms from said compression molder preparatory to blow molding in said blow
4 molder.

3.

1 The system set forth in claim 2 further including a conveyor coupled to said
2 common drive and connected to said blow molder for receiving said continuing series of plastic
3 containers from said blow molder.

4.

1 The system set forth in claim 1 wherein said source includes an extruder.

5.

1 A method of making plastic containers, which includes the steps of:

- 2 (a) providing a continuous stream of molten plastic,
3 (b) cutting said continuous stream into individual mold charges,
4 (c) transferring said mold charges in sequence to a continuing series of
5 compression molds,
6 (d) compression molding a continuing series of plastic container preforms in
7 said compression molds,
8 (e) transferring said continuing series of plastic container preforms in sequence
9 to a continuing series of blow molds,
10 (f) blow molding a continuing series of plastic containers in said blow molds,
11 (g) removing said containers in sequence from said blow molds, and
12 (h) operating said step (a) through (g) in synchronism to provide a continuing
13 series of blow molded containers from said molten plastic stream.

6.

1 The method set forth in claim 5 wherein said step (e) includes conditioning said
2 plastic container preforms preparatory to blow molding in said step (f).

7.

1 The method set forth in claim 5 that includes at least one step, prior to said step
2 (e) or subsequent to said step (g), selected from the group consisting of: crystallizing all or a
3 portion of the finish of the preform or container, and attaching all or a portion of a finish to the
4 preform or container.

8.

1 The method set forth in claim 5 that includes the step of attaching a label to the
2 container during or subsequent to said step (f).

9.

1 A system for making plastic containers, which includes:
2 a source for providing a continuous stream of molten plastic,
3 a preform molder for molding said plastic into a continuing series of individual
4 plastic container preforms,
5 a blow molder including a plurality of blow molds arranged in a continuing series
6 for receiving said individual plastic container preforms in sequence and blow molding said
7 preforms into a continuing series of plastic containers, and
8 a common drive for coordinating continuous and synchronous operation of said
9 source, said preform molder and said blow molder.

10.

1 A method of making plastic containers, which includes the steps of:
2 (a) providing a continuous stream of molten plastic,
3 (b) molding a continuing series of plastic container preforms,
4 (c) transferring said continuing series of plastic container preforms in sequence
5 to a continuing series of blow molds,
6 (d) blow molding a continuing series of plastic containers in said blow molds,
7 (e) removing said containers in sequence from said blow molds, and
8 (f) operating said step (a) through (e) in synchronism to provide a continuing
9 series of blow molded containers from said molten plastic stream.